





WE'RE BACK!

This is waaaaay overdue issue 7 of Crucial 'Zine, but it's not really a "proper" one. Let me digress. Work on issue 7 began during my final year in Cambridge for studies, so my head wasn't quite in the right place. Dom and Luke went traveling around the world during this period, which made things more difficult. With academic deadlines creeping up, it got pushed back a fair bit, until I returned to Greece. There, I was caught between work, army service and life being rather sweet for a couple years. Eventually though everything went to shit, meaning I was once again in the appropriately misanthropic mindset that has powered any semblance of creative endeavors.

Work on the issue resumed in December '16, but I soon realized that everything prepared for it over the years was hilariously outdated. I didn't want to throw all of issue 7 away or whatever, so I slapped it all together, in all its beta, remastered glory, for general release. Thanks a million to everyone who contributed to this issue and for their patience. Getting to work late at night on layouts and all has reignited a flame, so you can expect another issue later in 2017, most likely in the summer or fall. So kick back, crank up the NOFX or New Town Kings CD on your stereo and relive 2010 vicariously through Crucial 'Zine #7.

B9K

TEAM CRUCIAL / JUNE 2017

Some notes:

- The Propagandhi interview was originally conducted for Sonic Dice, a music site that set up by Johnski (who still reviews music) and Tet (who also takes amazing photos).
- There were going to be multiple covers: One had a drawing by the excellent Zsuzsa Goodyer, the other a photo by Kalem, while tarot design was slapped together by me.
- The "time machine" guide that was to be included was going to be a DIY telescope, because staring into the fucking sky at night is literally staring into the past. It was surprisingly complicated (and expensive) to build one from scratch, so I gave up on that. Maybe later.

CONTACT: ALL PREVIOUS SNAIL MAIL ADDRESSES ARE NOT VALID. SO DON'T SEND STUFF EXPECTING A REPLY, YEAH? YOU CAN FIND US ONLINE AT CRUCIALZINE.BLOGSPOT.COM, FACEBOOK.COM/CRUCIALZINE AND TWITTER.COM/CRUCIALZINE.



CRUCIAL FOLK

Darren & Matilda



Corinne



First ever Crucial tattoo!



Matt



The Illustrious Ben



'Papacus'

'Pipis'



BRIDGE CREW

Uh oh.



straight from the
horse's
mouth...

*(from 2010,
so be kind.)

TEEF NEWS

Cambridge punk/Oi representatives OVERLOAD had a wicked time in Italy early in October.

Luke and Dan from the TAGNUTS got a bit of a random kicking on Mill Road in September. Nobody seems to know what the fuck happened and cops are totally useless. That's fucked up, Cambridge...

DARREN, who most of you might know as the awesome dude from behind the bar at the KING ST. RUN and THE ZEBRA has a lovely baby girl now. Buy him a beer or ten next time you see him in town.

The coolest Canadian ever, LESLIE NIELSEN is dead. R.I.P.

Have you seen that picture of RICK TALIFE in the studio where he's cut his dreads off (which he then SOLD for \$100 a pop!) and wears a bulletproof vest on BACKWARDS? Yeah, I laughed pretty hard too, but I am starting to feel a bit guilty about making fun of mentally challenged people. What a fucking joke.

NEVER AGAIN, the best UK straight edge band in recent times has finally split up after about a year of rocking crotches and blowing minds. If you don't have the 'Year One' LP, do yourself a favour and grab it.

Once-near-faultless 'punk' label EPITAPH has gone and released the new Jackass 3D soundtrack. They've also got ALKALINE TRIO, WEEZER, NEW FOUND GLORY, EVERY TIME I DIE and about a million other horrible bands on their roster, effectively turning into a 'hasbeen' label. Seriously, what went wrong? Is MR. BRETT back on the horse? Sure as fuck looks like it.

GREGORY ISAACS is kicking it with LEE PERRY's braincells in the afterlife I don't believe in, which proves that there is no God.

LIME WIRE has been shut down, so all you folk who use it to get your interracial bukkake midget porn will have to figure out what torrents and ~~mediafire.com~~ are.

Let me set this straight; there is NO such thing as an 'official bootleg'. A bootleg means it's unofficial shit illegally released without the consent of the artist you are ripping off. So calling your live record a 'bootleg' is as bullshit as legal marijuana and alcohol-free beer.

BAD RELIGION finally reissued the 'Into The Unknown' LP and not surprisingly a ton of hipsters and posers are claiming it to be a good record with good songs. Can someone make them a copy of 'Suffer', just so they realize they are talking shit? Thanks in advance.

Haven't been to the HAYMAKERS in ages, but the RANDOM HAND show was a good excuse to head over. Pretty cool place for gigs, the only thing not going for it is that it's way out of town.

The superbly talented MC IPOD is back in the 'Bridge. Look out for his KILL YOUR OWN 'zine taking over from where CRUCIAL 'ZINE will drop off, for your 'Bridge City 'zine core wants and needs.

PROPAGANDHI are looking for a label to release their next record. I'm still waiting to hear back from them about my proposal to release it on tape in Greece. I even told them I'd go vegan for a week and act excited when hockey is on TV.

Where is the social justice in this world when FLOGGING MOLY (aka 'DROPKICK MURPHYS LITE') is working on a new record and X ONE WAY X won't write a new one?

Looks like the DESCENDENTS might be playing 'reunion' shows more often and quite possibly get around to record a new full length. This must be great fucking news for American punk rock enthusiasts with receding hairlines, mortgages and children.

THE AQUABATS are also going to release something new some time soon and apparently it goes back to their earlier ska-flavoured sound. Sweet, it looks like I might get some real cash for my really rare Aquabats windbreaker on ebay, yeah? Black, XL, the front has the Aquabat dude in a black/yellow spiral, back says 'The Aquabats' in the Old School English font. Perfect for any self-respecting edgie-man. Get in touch with offers. *(this is still up for sale in 2017)



CRUCIALBOT ANSWERS EVERYTHING

Guess what, meatbag. Your puny brain cannot understand the fundamental laws that control the cosmos and determine the outcome of everything. Luckily for you, Crucialbot is programmed to do just that. If you need a quick and straight to the point answer, in plain English, shoot us a message and you will get a straight answer. Word.

Q: Is cold fusion real?

A: Yeah, I have hooked up this super nifty cold fusion device to my Sega Game Gear, so I never run out of juice when I'm kicking ass at Columns. I got it dirt cheap from some mad Russian-looking dude down town in Athens named Yuri. Crazy guy. It was like 10 am and he was already drunk and talking about taking over the world with real communism or something.

Q: If you could change your name, what would it be?

A: Ζωτική Σημασία

Q: Do you believe in ghosts?

A: Nah, don't be silly. The belief in ghosts, to me, suggests that one would have to a) believe that a 'soul' can exist independently from a body and b) that 'life' continues after the body dies. I find both of these presumptions ridiculous:

a) What most consider a 'soul', I equate with 'personality', the sort of thing that develops from child-birth. Every tiny bit of influence, impulse or whatever contributes towards the 'mind' of a human being. All of that crap is stored in the human brain. What we like to call a 'soul' is nothing more than the electrical impulses going around in the slush of pink matter. When the heart stops pumping oxygen-carrying blood to the brain, it all shuts down. End of story.

b) You could probably contest my disbelief in the afterlife if you are the sort of person who will believe in fantastical mad shit and superstitions, so I'm not going to bother giving you an elaborate answer to this. So basically when the lights go out, they fucking go out and there is nothing to suggest that there is anything there.

Who inspires/infuriates you the most?

The sort of idiot who likes to think that punk/hardcore owe a lot to metal or that they are part of metal. The sort of idiot who likes to think that punk/hardcore has naturally progressed to emo or metalcore. The sort of idiot who just simply doesn't 'get it'.

Q: What's the worst show on TV?

A: Whatever Charlie Brooker says it is.

Q: Who the hell are the Tea Party?

A: Whenever I hear 'Tea Party', I think of that bit in 'Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back' where they're in Hollywood, get busted by the security guard and makes them suck each other off, finishing with 'Ooooh, what a lovely tea party'.

The Tea Party are the political equivalent of evangelical Christians who don't believe in evolution and hate everything that doesn't comply with their literal interpretation of the Bible. They really hate Obama for being black, but they won't say it directly. Instead they claim all sorts of random shit that make Dubya sound as intelligent as a theoretical physicist.

Q: Who's the coolest person you know?

A: My dad.

Q: Why are you so sexy?

A: Because I was designed to be this sexy.

Q: If I build it, will they come?

A: 'It' depends on what "it" is. Are you building a pyramid, teleportation or time-travelling device? Perhaps you've decided to build a full-scale mock-up of the Titanic in your back yard. Whatever it is, if there is alcohol, weed or free blowjobs, I'll probably be there, throwing your CDs out of the window and replacing them with mosh-friendly music. Rule of thumb is that if it is crucial, you bet they will come. Hell, they might even bring along more people you don't know or like. If it's half-assed, you can count on people 'totally forgetting about it', having to suddenly do their laundry or simply opting to listen to the new Punch LP for an entire day. So be more specific and tantalize/trick people into coming with cool shit, if you honestly think it's crap.

Q: How long will it take Vatican scientists to explain how God created the Universe?

A: 'Vatican scientists'?! They have scientists at the Vatican? Real ones, who won't take the Bible and gospels seriously? Is this some sort of trick question? I can tell you that the Vatican Commandos were a pretty rad band though, shame Moby isn't down with hardcore anymore these days. But yeah, remind me about Vatican scientists when I am in need of laughter.

Q: Yep, some Vatican scientists used to work for Nasa.

A: Well, since they 'used' to work for NASA, so I guess they got wise and got rid of them. This undoubtedly demonstrates the need to separate a) the church and state and b) NASA from government funding. I mean, just because a few lunatics got together and decided they hate science, some schools in the USA have to treat "Intelligent Design" as an alternative to Darwinism. Kinda crazy. I can only imagine some government people told NASA that they should hire some of their crazy Christian brethren "because, you know, angels might be real and shit so we should probably get them on board to figure out how to give wings to people". Disappointing.

Q: I think Vatican scientists and present day NASA scientists investigate in much the same way, though their end games are obviously poles apart. They probably research a bit more openly than Soviet scientists in the 1930s.

A: This is not a question, is it? However, I gather Vatican 'scientists' are probably trying to work their god into whatever scientific theories look promising, which is rather unfucking-ethical. You can't really bring the element of the supernatural (something unobservable) into a study of the natural world without some serious fuck ups along the way. It's a bit like trying to peel pistachio nuts with boxing gloves on. If you haven't tried this, it becomes increasingly frustrating and futile, with little benefit in the outcome

Religion and spirituality might be useful in helping people overcome their fear of life and the unknown, but it is only symbolic. Being symbolic, it shouldn't interfere with or influence other aspects of life which have a more pragmatic role in human survival, such as diet or governing. We get enough rituals from sports and music these days, so fuck their old books of bullshit ethics. Philosophy moves along similar lines to religion, but much closer to science, since it's (mostly) based on reason. Science is really about rationalising the world based on observation and experimentation. Sure, religion funded science for centuries, but only so long as it served its purposes. When science began contradicting religion, it used its political clout to suppress knowledge from getting out. That's called a "dick move".

Granted, the Vatican has moved on a bit from the Holy Inquisition, the Crusades and denying the Holocaust, but can you really risk letting them anywhere near real science these days for fear of them fucking it up with their sorry-ass track record? Vatican 'scientists' would only venture out to the stars to shake hands with Jesus or an archangel or something. And to set massive laser guns in orbit so that they can carry on killing brown people, homosexuals, single mothers and Richard Dawkins. Fuck those assholes.

OH MY DAYS! IT'S...



Matt
Casey's

SCHOOL OF SNEAKEROLGY

Science, Technology and Society - Sneakers

Back before the world protested or ambivalently ignored the debate about increasing the charge on end-users for devalued and demeaned higher education, those at University sampled vacuous taught courses as non-major "outfield modules" instead of the whole thing requiring the intellectual-acumen of a field-mouse posing as a reality TV celebrity, and it's from the joyous world of Sociology that I bring you this piece on the various elements incorporated into Sneaker design, what they meant at the time, how they reflected the world as it was, and of course most importantly to you gentle viewer, what it says about those wearing such now.

A decade on since the world was supposed to end because the greatest technological advancement of the century was supposedly ill-equipped to deal with the fact said century was ending, show technology is most definitely about evolution and not revolution. Some big-name brands have strived to re-invent the wheel, mostly due to corporate BS like patent law and intellectual property rights, as the fact remains that the notion of performance drove the non-retro industry as boys like toys and love gadgets on our feet. The four most prominent aspects of performance historically have been traction, cushioning, support/fit and weight. The former on the list will be widely ignored here - traction relates to super-geeky tech that no-one cares to understand and changes as frequently as men's health magazines would have you believe the "key secrets to the perfect abdomen" do, and frankly who cares about the non-aesthetic differences between podular and tpu injected outsole design? (edit* Yes, admittedly this is probably the most interesting and rich area of STS study for actual sociologists, and would relate to such techs as Adidas Torsion and the Puma Duo-flex, but let's be honest, that's kinda like real science!). Similarly, weight is a moot point that has always been a consideration which has merely increased in relevance in recent years. Long-story short, I'm here to chat cushioning and fit.



fig. 1 1987's window to the future, visible AIR!

Cushioning

For the past quarter-century, the term "Air" has become synonymous with cushioning technology, with Nike and Jordan brand using taking the nomenclature to iconic status to the point the public conception of all cushioning in sneakers starts, and as often as not ends, with the Air bubble. Since Tinker gave us the window into the pressurized sac of the III, we've grown to expect and depend upon the Air from the swoosh that I'd not be surprised if human phylogeny changed to remove any and all natural shock-absorption from the body leaving synovial fluid a vestigial reminder of osteoarthritis. From the early token gestures in the heel, the combinations of Zoom in the front and Max in the rear and then the full-length or 360 units, the dominance of Air was maintained by the exclusivity Nike had to the entire concept of the tech. However, this doesn't mean other brands didn't come up with their own creative and notable alternatives, and many of these make for awesomeness in their own right.



Hexagon of Hexalite, sweet as honey.

Reebok Hexalite: Not allowed to make pressurized plastic bubbles? If you are a small brand barely on the radar at Beaverton, why not have the audacity to make a flat layer sub-divided into hexagonal honeycombs! Whilst at a few mm high this seemed a poor-alternative to the late 80s Air that towered to a half-inch in some cases, the compartmental design did mean kids could sit there deliberately deflating individual sections by bursting them with a compass during story-time in school without losing the entire effect – there's few things more pitiful than a punctured Nike! This tech was also combined with another lock-down method in one of the best Bball hightops the Vector would ever produce, but we'll be on that in a bit.

Converse React: Cons couldn't just rely upon the techless Chucks or Weapons once Larry and Magic hung them up, and when you're marquee guy is a 6ft 7 Rookie of the year/transvestite octogenarian beast of a power forward in the age of shoe-tech, you gunna need you some juice to stop the guy snapping the hardwood when he's thrown down. Specifically, REACT Juice. The "science part" may suggest all sorts of mystical properties from the substance, but in all honesty it was a way around the Nike patent – simulate the properties of Air by throwing a non-hazardous semi-gelatinous mix in a soft plastic compartment in the heel.



Cons made the Juice couture, Nike reacted by buying the company in '03

Less a performance factor, but often more relevant in determining how well-received a sneaker is, the 'fit' combines a myriad of factors that do have performance implication, such as support, stability and, to a lesser extent, snugness. Street fashion will dictate how obeyed the manufacturers attempts at securing the foot will be, but the trend has always been to make high-tops tight in a way that maintains comfort. The most notable method of achieving this also came from the Vector, with the commercial genius of the 'Pump'. The idea of a ball shaped button that could be physically pumped to add air-pressure to pockets inside the shoes upper meant kids everywhere could be suckered into claiming to feel the difference, and once Dee Brown bent to inflate his Omni Lite's before throwing down on his way to the NBA slam-dunk title, the shoe was a must that would maintain cultural relevance way beyond the realization of its technological redundancy.



Before Joe Budden, Dee made us all wanna Pump it up

Not content as a 6th man on the bench, Nike also got involved with its own take, using a similar system of valves to de- and re-pressurize chambers with air in 3 sneakers, owning any of which conferring immediate deity status to the Billy Hoyle wannabe. Upstart west-coast brand LA Gear also threw it's back-to-front Sox hat in the ring with the paradoxically awesome yet simultaneously-kitsch Regulator. The shoe wouldn't be enough to secure the company any real market share, but later another technological innovation would put export the LAG way past the LAX, once they threw shock-respondent LEDs into the heel to betrays the whereabouts of the pre-pubescent would-be-assailants most probably sporting them. LA Gear had even made play at the shock-absorption market with the technologically superb Catapult, however unlike key endorsee Karl Malone, they failed to deliver. Still, owning these today would make you a pimp in my book.

An alternative approach to improve fit was to tighten the upper from the instep over the arch of the foot. Whereas Pumping essentially made the tongue fatter beneath the laces, Mr Dassler's little brother saw fit to reduce the space between the inner- and outer- panels with a constricting system of pulleys around a central cog. The Puma Disc, in many ways, was awesome, and worn by sprinters in a time when British citizens could be proud of our men in lycra shorts, however as a retail product, it's just too, well, effective. They're the footwear equivalent of owning an iphone, sure they're technically superior as the pinnacle of what they aim to achieve, but owning them make you the epitome of mindless bore.



Ewing's: A Rogue grail



Air Raid: X-my heart and hope to fly

The line of acceptable efficiency is drawn in fashion, kids don't drive Volvo's and they wouldn't wear tins of Ronseal quick drying woodstain on their feet. Luckily, the Disc was but an effective improvement on a concept far simpler and aesthetically more striking, the strap. All shoes can have lacing, and the concept of physically drawing the sides closer by Velcro straps had been popularized at the start of the 90s, notably by the seminal Jordan 8 (and it's outdoor counterpart the Air Raid), but even before this Patrick Ewing's eponymous shoe line had some joints with cross straps so ill I'd trade my last deadstock pair of Aqua's for a used pair of these as beaters. Kanye asked "have you ever had shoes without shoe-strings?", a question as redundant to a hip-hop audience raised on Rev-Run shell-toes that one could only retort rhetorically with the counter-query "does a bear shit in the woods and wipe his ass on a fluffy white rabbit?" (which, for any keeping count, 2Pac himself asked). Confusingly, 'Ye made the step of his own sneaks strapped with the thick Velcro on the 2009 Air Yeezy, but wears his laced, as he does his 8s with the straps open.....

This is Now

On topic of the present, where are we with tech? Well, the issue of weight has so far outweighed (pun literally intended) that of support that Kobe (not content with white women) has been abusing ankles with low-cut on court sneakers, but they're played-out and quite frankly less attractive than Nadal's Agassi inspired tennis joints. As far as cushioning goes, well we're at a precipice of inventive innovation. After Nike's attempts to "Shox" the world (through fear of losing the exclusivity when the Air patent was due to run-out) failed to do anything but provide unattractive uniform for the kinda Chav that shops in the grand arcade and casually listens to grime, it seemed as if we'd plateau'd to stagnation, however Reebok has not only rebranded to "Rbk", but with its striking Zigtech sole-system achieved the most intriguing performance and styling development in a long-ass time (that is until they got the contemptible Lewis Hamilton to endorse the trainer in some faux freerun cartoon fantasy).

John Wall should wear bricks since Hamilton de-swagged the Zig





1 question and 1 question only, will Tubes be a smash?

Out of complete obscurity, former bourgeoisie-tennis turned Ned brand K-Swiss have found a niche, despite the fact their product innovations team had only some lame plastic sliding logo-stripes to fill their resume's to this point. On the face of it, the concept of the "tubes" seems a poor rip of the Zig, but the advertising campaign chooses not to take itself seriously so we can follow suit, and if it's something off the beaten path you want, I'll be happy to let you have your self-congratulatory conversation starter with these.

Which moves us neatly onto the question on everyone's fingers "so Case, what can I wear?". Besides the obvious answer that if you have to ask, you can't be told, the rule of thumb is as such: Retro will always get you points, IF you were relevant first time around. If I see another 6th form kid in Chuck's, I assume I can go ballbat to the dome. If you wearing some tech that was essentially lame before you were born, you disrespecting our heritage and it won't fly. If you Pumping up Bringbacks, better be coz they throwback. Lets be honest, you ain't ballin for real, and even if you are, the difference between statistical and practical advantage means that even if the tech does work, it means nothing, so make sure you good to say that which your shoes say about you. So rock your React, adorn yourself with Air and Pimp in Pumps, but whatever you do in the name of nostalgia, never besmirch those that came before you and believe, and never, and I mean ne-ever, accept the loss of tech on a hybrid/fusion. My Regulators may not give me LA privileges, but vulcanized soles may lose you yours.....



To live and die in LA: Regulators, mount up



What is killing the punk scene?

Words by Ed Ache. You can usually catch Ed somewhere around the UK blowing minds armed with his ukelele or his brothers in arms, I.C.H. He's the one with the massive grin and dreads. You can hit him up at <http://www.myspace.com/ichcolchesterpunx> or have a look around on Facebook.

The scene we are in is so small and close knit that much of the time it is more like a club than a scene. Sometimes it seems like people do all that they can to keep it that way. It's easy to point fingers, find faults, pick holes and spend your whole time complaining fighting minor political wars, that you forget all that's great about it. Rather than constantly trying to tell people what is wrong with the punk scene, you should just do your part to try to make it better. The scene is so much stronger when we all work together. A little co-operation is all that is needed.

At Rebellion (Wasted/Hols in the sun... What ever you want to call it) this year I heard a guy complaining about the festival. His complaint went something like this...

"I just broke in, I hopped over the fence when the security weren't looking. I hate this festival. It's full of wankers. I've never seen any of these people at any small punk gigs, yet they spike and dye their hair for this one over priced shit punkfest once a year. They all look the same, that's not what it's all about. How can they call themselves punks Rah Rah Rah.... Etc."

I can kind of see his point, but at the same time... Why do your best to break into a shit overpriced punkfest just so you can be one of the wankers that the festival is full of? There are plenty of punx picnics happening all over the place that are not nearly as commercialised as Rebellion. I'd like to point out that this guy looked like every one else at the festival, and besides that I think that he is almost completely missing the point.

If you go to one punk gig a year, at least you do go to one punk gig a year. If you look 77, or like crusty gutter punks but live with your mums who cares. Surely it is what is inside that counts, and that is the whole point of punk rock in the first place. Live the way you want to live, look the way you want to look, do the things you want to do. The punk scene is supposed to be INCLUSIVE NOT EXCLUSIVE! It doesn't matter what you look like, or what you do you should be accepted for who you are. No boarders, no boundaries... No I'm not talking to you your mohawks not big enough and your trousers are too tight!

Fuck that!

Let's just get on with it. Fractions and infighting will only serve to tear our small scene apart. So in conclusion. What is killing the punk scene? Anybody talking about what is killing the punk scene, and bitching about it rather than just getting involved and doing what they can to make it better. You know who you are. Come on people, get your bum out, push over some tables and lets have a bloody good knees up.

It's all anarchy innit!



JOHNSKI'S WORD

Ma told me never to construct theories out of my dreams. "Dreams are dreams for a reason", so she says. Well, when did we ever listen to our mothers? So... As well as being a promotional tool for bands, the perfect rag for cleaning the car in, the stretchy nightshirt for when the winter draws in or simply the thing you first reach for on those lazy weekends, the humble t-shirt is clearly one of the main reasons for the sorry state of today's society.

Gone are the days when everyday wear meant suits and ties, to be replaced by the word "casual wear" and the plain old t-shirt and formidable pair of jeans. Hell, even the mafia knew you had to boot and suit from dawn 'til dusk. Think Steve McQueen or Marlon Brando – they must be to blame for giving the tee the necessary "cool" status it needed to invade our minds. Next thing you know and "BAM!" we're all taking five minutes to dress in the morning instead of the half-hour ritual of waistcoat, cravat and/or spats. This slackening of thought to how we dress in the mornings has surely given rise to the deifying of youth fashion and, consequently, now we have the inevitable "emo", "greebo" and that evil term "sportswear" which has disastrously given rise to the ASBO-bothering "chav".

It follows that even our speech patterns are getting more and more retarded too. Jeez (a fine example of a half-arsed way of saying the word "Jesus"), we dress lazy so why not talk lazy. Enunciation is reserved for pedants, whilst the masses merely slur and gesture their way through the English language. It wasn't like this when we started the day in a manner that set us up for a day of labour.

As well as this social malaise, we are also experiencing an economic decline. Could this also be the fault of the one-piece? How could excessive money-lending, standards of living and poor economic reconstruction be the fault of just a simple item of clothing? The domino effect is indeed a powerful one if this was the case, but I think I've ridden this theory far enough for the time being. The rest of the journey is yours to imagine. My nightmare only got this far, when I suddenly woke up sweating profusely, distractedly shaking my fist in the direction of my overloaded t-shirt cupboard.

Postscript: I own over 100 t-shirts and each one serves a specific purpose. The 'Sick Of It All' black tee is reserved for all gigs (except Sick Of It All gigs). The camo-green 'No Fear' one is for pubbing, the 'Camp Fear' white one is for Sunday morning games console sessions, the 'San Francisco 49ers' one is for long car journeys, etcetera. I love my tees, but they are, surely, all pure evil... or perhaps I should be paying more attention to what my Ma says. Mothers do know best, after all.

KNOW YOUR ROOTS

If you are into quality hardcore from "back in the day", you have no doubt come across the name **BJ PAPAS** in the liner notes of your favorite releases on Revelation Records. Here are some of his rather neat pictures, showing it how it was, back before social media.



Agnostic Front (1987)



Gorilla Biscuits (1988)



Nausea (1987)



NOFX (1996)



Bad Brains (1989)



Murphy's Law (1986)



Warzone (1987)



Murphy's Law (1988)

all photos lifted from www.bjpapas.com



Youth Of Today (1986)

GAMING ON THE INTEL 945

If you own a cheap laptop from within the past 15 years or so and, chances are it has the integrated Intel 945 graphics card. To see what card you got, right-click on your 'My Computer' desktop icon, choose 'Properties', from there click on the 'Hardware' tab and from there click on 'Device Manager'. There, if you click on 'Display Adapters', it should show you what card your computer is armed with.

Now the 9XX family of graphics cards is a piece of shit. They don't even have onboard memory and draw it from the RAM on your system. Simply put, they were not made for gaming, just a set of basic shit to get people going with word processing, a bit of photoshopping and maybe a bit of old school gaming. Now there are a few ways to get to play some fairly decent games on it, but don't set your hopes on playing Black Ops on it or anything crazy like that.

If the game you want to play was made before 2005 or so, there is a good chance the game will run with minimal to no fucking about tweaking your system and settings. If it doesn't require DirectX 9 or newer you are safe. Things start getting complicated with newer games. You probably need to head to <http://groups.google.com/group/intel9x-gaming>. This is a great resource for questions related to your card and gaming, as well as hosting a comprehensive list of compatible games. With a bit of searching you can find out if there are any work-arounds to making games playable. Half-Life 2 is playable at decent framerates with a bit of settings meddling. Call of Duty 2 though will require Vista or Windows 7 and those systems require RAM and horsepower you don't have.

Newer games might require you to install customised ('modded') drivers that help unlock some of that Intel 9XX magic, but framerates will suffer. If you are comfortable doing that stuff, go with it, but these drivers can be a bit buggy (like disabling OpenGL support). You have to question if it's worth playing a game at a tiny resolution, with everything set to low for a choppy framerate. That is really not how the game designers intended you to play the game and over time this gets incredibly frustrating. Trying to get Call of Duty 2 to run under WinXp is a prime example of this; unplayable framerate (1 or 2fps) vs washed out/unwatchable textures.

What this graphics card will teach you is that if you want to play video-games on the go, you are probably better off getting a portable games console or a swishy phone. You can try getting a console, but they resemble overpriced average gaming PC's, with the odd gimmick like motion sensors and media players. If you take gaming serious, you should be joining the PC Master Race.

THE JUNK

The Junk are a band from Brighton and feature two, not one, but TWO Jakes from Cambridge. Both of them have dreads, so to avoid any confusion, this interview was done with the one who used to play in Trip-Hazard. Anyway, enough babbling about random bullshit, if you dig quality ska/punk, you will no doubt be familiar with these guys and gals. If not, sort yourself out, yeah?

So how did you get together? Why call yourselves "junk" when you're actually pretty damn good?

Kind of a weird story actually! I was playing guitar for another punk band (won't mention any names as they are still around). Me and the bassist had kind of a hard time of it, it wasn't really our thing and we decided to start a side project as a way of having some fun and relieving the stress. It was meant to just be a laugh! Just blag borrow or steal a rig and make some music, we never dreamed it would go as far as it has. We got Butters in on drums and he came up with the name "the junk". Even then I don't think anyone had a clue what it meant (neither do we now), but it seemed to fit the slap dash way we all came together. The horn section followed soon after, Moff's band Once Over had just split and Twids and Colley are both so good, there was no competition! After about a year I jumped off guitar and Skinner and eventually our second guitarist Bill joined and there it is, The Junk you know today!

What do you guys do when you're not touring and recording? Are y'all lawyers and doctors?

Lots of teachers! Myself, Ben and Butters all give private music lessons, a couple study! A couple have real day jobs, but mostly outside the band is pretty music-based as well. Everybody has a few side projects or a bit of session work to pass the time between tours. Me and butters run a small D.I.Y record label and put on a lot of shows which takes up a lot of time. Note to self.....find out what the fuck Skinner does!

For future reference, what sort of questions do you hate having to answer at interviews and what sort of questions would you like people to ask you, but they don't?

Man, that's a good one! Hmm! Well, there isn't really anything I am not happy to talk about. However from time to time you do get some pretty dumb questions like "what is your fave type of ice cream?" WHY!? Why is that something even remotely interesting for a reader? A much better question would have been "if you could choose one flavour ice cream to fight off a hord of brain eating zombies what would it be?" (ed: I would say "Calamari"; fish-food sucks as it is, so I imagine fish-flavoured ice cream would do it) See where I am going?

I guess another thing is the politics thing, I really try not to ram politics down peoples' throats and think that our views are expressed pretty plainly in our songs. I was once asked "why are you guys so against the BNP"! That pissed me off a little although I am happy to explain, it seemed like more of a dig than a question and made me wonder slightly about the person asking the question.

So Jake, how come you don't bust out the old diggeridoo onstage anymore?

A-HAHAHAHA! I should have known there would be a trip hazard related question really! Well you know what just for you its gona happen! watch this space!

How hard is to convince everyone that ska/punk is still cool, when everyone pretends to be embarrassed to have liked Less Than Jake, circa 1996-2003?

Ah that old chestnut! I get asked this a lot :) Most people seem to be getting used to the idea of ska punk/ skacore making a big comeback in mainstream alternative music I think music culture moves in circles, everything comes back around in the end. There is still a myth that this kind of music died in the UK with capdown/ lightyear and other bands of that ilk splitting. NOT TRUE! take bands like RANDOM HAND, THE SKINTS, BEAT THE RED LIGHT, SONIC BBOM SIX, the list goes on :) we have seen the scene grow so much over the last few years! The kids seem really into it and lot of the younger crowd at our shows are to young to really remember the first wave of this type of music. Its very encouraging to watch and a special thing to be a part of I think.



You've played quite a bit around the UK and Europe. What sort of differences did you encounter when abroad? Any cool or weird customs you picked up abroad that you'd like to share to the world?

Touring Europe is a breath of fresh air! I think, people are much more willing to support bands at grass roots level over there, its a lot easier over all. People are really friendly and are very happy to pay you well, take you into their homes and to make sure you want to come back, as far as I am concerned thats good buisness! We just signed to "BAD MOOD RECORDS" in switzerland after our second euro tour and the amount of work they put in when they met us was amazing!

As for strange customs..... not many, although little things like the food you get given! I dont know what they are called I only know you can find them in most holland kebab shops and the locals will tell you they are breaded donkey penis! They taste amazing! lol I also love touring in france! The amount of awesome nibbles and spirits you are given when you get to a venue is amazing!

What's the sketchiest place you've played thus far? Did people look like Marv out of Sin City?

So many sketchy places! we are lucky in the fact there are 8 of us and usually a roadie or two to look after each other, touring is great but it can (and has done before now) go very wrong at times! One that sticks out was a show we did in Marseille last year. We played in a really famous skinhead club they were all totally fucked! and all looked like marv! luckily for us they were all anti racist activists but things still managed to get a little hairy and in a totally unrelated incident our drummer (butters) ended up in hospital after having a serious fit that night it was all pretty dark! Oh and crew! what's with crew?

You guys recently played a benefit gig for Strawberry Fair of some sort. What did you think of Strawberry Fair being called in 2010? What's the craziest shit you've seen at Strawberry Fair (apart from Tim in a frilly shirt)?

I think it was a sad thing to have such a loved event canceled for such bullshit reasons! Stay at home in your boxes people cos it's not safe to enjoy yourselves and you can't afford the police! Erm sorry so what exactly are we paying taxes for if we have to start paying these arseholes extra to get up and go to work! Soz that ones still a bit sore. One of the craziest things I remember seeing was a band on the main stage a few years back, the singer was camp as Christmas! A load of townie types in the audience started giving him shit so he stripped off and threw his clothes at them! 10 out of 10 to the man! it was brilliant to watch!



So I get absolutely shitfaced in London at some Skawash gig, get on the wrong train and wake up in Brighton at 9am, possibly missing a shoe and clutching what appears to be a vomit-covered 'kebab'. Where's good to buy records, grab some breakfast, hang out and drink my hangover away, until I catch the next cheap bus back to Cambridge?

I would say drag yer arse to Kensingtons in the north laines and grab a gut buster! sit on the balcony (this way you can pretend you are a king not a vomit stained half naked mess!) then take a left to "PUNKER BUNKER" There you will find treasure trove of punk ska and hardcore cd's and records as well as tickets to all the good shows which will more than likely be at the hydrant or the albert.....oh soz and you can swing by mine for a cuppa!



Let's say that during the events of *Back To The Future* one, I got to steal Doc's plans of the flux capacitor and made my own Panzer Tank Time Machine. Where would you take it and what sort of mischief would you cause with a 45-tonne piece of terrifying German ingenuity?

I know most people would most probably use such a device to travel through time and rid the world of its wrongs.....now I am not saying that Mr Hitler wouldn't get it big style but I would have to use it for my own evil desires before I got round to that kind of stuff. 1st off I would travel back to Liv tylers 18th birthday, gate crash tank girl style, get her wasted and groom the hell out of that chick! Oh like the rest of you would'nt! I also think such a machine would be a great thing to take to woodstock! just to see the thoasands of trippy faces drop!



this logo looks a bit familiar, eh?



When NASA sent those Voyager probes with a record of sounds from Earth (like humans laughing and waves crashing), I was disappointed that they didn't simply put Carry On's "A Life Less Plagued" LP. What records would you shoot into space in hopes of reaching a distant civilisation, long after Earth has finally been consumed by the sun?

I think in addition to your already fine choice.....I would send every song ever releaed by Mcfly with a note attached that reads "free to a good home" I also think maybe some slackers, some NOFX, monty pythons always look on the bright side of death and the detachable penis song.





these pics are from Germany too.

OK, just to make it clear, the whole '2012 is the end of the world' stuff is utter nonsense, but lets entertain the sort of people who wear aluminum (ed note: that's aluminium for the non-American readership) hats and are probably really good at World of Warcraft. What sort of bat-shit crazy stuff would you like to go down?

I would be EXTREMELY dissappointed to not see worldwide fucking in the streets on this day! nothing but partying, drinking eating dancing then BOOM!

So on to something a tad more serious; your EP was entitled 'New Order of the Ages', which is a term loaded with lots of meaning. To me it conveys imagery of dudes in hooded robes with cryptic icons, secret handshakes, lizardmen and a Dan Brown blockbuster. What's your take on it?

That's ballpark for sure man!, the fact that the illuminati all seeing eye is on a doolar bill is amusing if nothing less. We hoped that it would be open to discusion with people though. Are we in conrtol or does money control us and the people that make it? Is there a vast secret society pulling strings throughout history keeping the rich rich and the poor poor etc or is it all just a load of crap? Are we just being tarts and acting smart by having the ep name in latin? The idea is that people can think what they like about it but it's an interesting topic we hope.

Generally speaking, most people would associate punk rock with some sort of socialist or rather left-leaning 'agenda'. Would you say this is true? If so, to what extent? Are radical politics really a part of it, or is it another thing to pretend you know about just so you can "score"...

There is a lot of that in punk for sure yeah but theres plenty without aswell. Punk is obviously a strong medium for expressing extreme emotion and opinion. Its loud fast and passionate so it makes sense that some of it is related to current politics and issues but I dont like the idea that one type of music is connected to one way of thinking it spoils it I think. I love the fact I can put my thoughts on certain things in our lyrics for sure but I always try to do it in a tounge and cheek kind of way cos at the end of the day music is meant to be fun and lets face it politics usually take the fun out of things. As for scoring with girls I just lie and say I know fat mike!

I saw a couple documentaries on drug-trafficing and the cost of the War on Drugs and I was blown away as to how ineffective it is. What's your take on the legal status of drugs? Furthermore, how realistic do you think a legalisation of cannabis is?

I think with our new government that legal cannibis went well out the window! Its a shame really bill hicks I think said it best "you're at a ball (or something less american) and somones being loud and obnoxious....are they drunk or our they high?" its definatley the lesser of 2 evils and hey england is grey and boring a lot of the time and I am an adult! If we choose to do these things I think we should be allowed.

I've never met any straight edge ska bands (even the Christian ska bands drank beer and got high), so I'll assume you guys and gals party. Any self-respecting pot-smoker tends to have a incredible or cool story about the wacky backy and the law. What's yours?

Guilty! We do! I think we have even put a few promoters off in the past. haha! as for the old wacky backy.....We were in rotterdam and a bit out of it! We ended up driving the wrong way up a tram line. We were pulled over pretty quick and had to do some serious dumb english tourist ass kissing to stop them arresting us all and impounding the van! There is actually a song on the new album about a drive to the french border on the last night of a tour, it was one of those everything must go drives if you catch my drift? I hope I never have to do that again! fuck me!



What sort of plans do you have for the future? I understand you've got a new Junk and solo record coming out soon, right?

Yup! The new album "problem-reaction -solution" is out through BAD MOOD RECORDS and 12 STEP PLAN RECORDS and a few more to be announced in the coming months, we are just putting the finishing touches on it and we are good to go! And yeah I am finishing the solo ep next week! It would be a massive lie to say I am not really excited at the moment! We also just put our live album and our last EP up on the 12 step plan records website as free downloads for anyone who wants a copy!

You've recently started up your own label. What made you do so? Do kids buy records these day, or do they just download shit? I'm confused, because I was trying to describe what a record store was to some 15 year olds the other day and I got blank stares.

Haha oh god thats sad! Me and butters (real name lee if ya like) started it as way of getting our music out to begin with, it just grew into something we felt was worth building on. Its great to go see a band you really like and be able to "hey fancy letting us help put your music out" We are both really excited about some of the bands on the label so fingers crossed for everybody! I hate a lot of the music out there today so its nice to be able to have even the smallest influence in getting true talent heard. Go check it out if you like! :) www.12step-plan.com

You're right too, most of its online these days. I really miss the old days where it was harder to get hold of the music, there would always be some super stoned kid at school who was like somekind of records ninja and had every rare pressing or deleted album you had ever wanted! Would he sell them no! would he tell you where he got them? Fuck no! Now you just have to type it into google! Come to think of it that kid was an arsehole!

Any last words or shout outs? Also feel free to name any pricks (bands, promoters, politicians, whatever...) you've met through the years.

If I miss anyone out then I am sorry but fuck do we owe a lot of thanks to a lot of people!

Well 1st off thanks to the boys at bad mood records and to the guys in catch 22 and panic state records! To buzz at punker bunker and ian at hidden talent booking, to barney boom (sonic boom six) to all the bands who make it so fun to be at these shows....Beat the red light (best skacore the uk has ever seen! and awesome guys!) Anti vigilante, random hand, dirty rev, the skints, god I could name a million!

The most important thanks I think is really to anyone who has taken the time to come to a show or brought or blagged our music it makes happy that you guys like like! To Every D.I.Y promoter that we have come across and to any kind person who has fed us, let us kip in their house and shared whatever they may have with us! We have the best time doing this and its all the above that helps us do it so truly thanks! oh and thanks to you too for the interview! :) Be lucky!

Quickfire round:

Anti-Flag or Anti-Cimex? - Anti-flag

Bad Religion or Bad Brains? -oooooooh tough one but bad religion

Chocking Victim or Carry On? -choking victim

Dead Kennedys or Dimmu Borgir? -Dead kennedys

E-Town Concrete or Eazy E? -E Town Concrete! those guys were PHat!

F-Minus or Five Knuckle? -five knuckle!

Gorilla Biscuits or Good Clean Fun? Gorilla biscuits

Husker Du or Heresy? -Husker Du

Iron Maiden or ICP? - cant stand iron maiden! sorry! I.C.P

Jughead's Revenge or Jeniger? -hahaha! jugheads revenge!

Knuckledust or KISS another tough one but knuckledust

L7 or L-Seven? - L7

Madball or Mad Caddies? -Madball

NOFX or NOFX? -the junk :)

Operation Ivy or OPM? -operation ivy

Pennywise or Propagandhi? -propagandhi

Quake or Quitter? -quake

Rancid or Ramones? -rancid

Slayer or Sick of it All? -sick of it all!

Terror or Ten Yard Fight?- I wont lie, I know neither. soz.

Union 13 or Unity? - union 13 I like his crazy weird voice!

Varukers or Vandals? -Vandals

Warzone or What Happens Next? -what happens next

XOne WayX or XDuckhuntX? DUCKHUNT!

Zebrahead or Zeroid? -zebrahead

Commentary from 2017: Since this interview was conducted like 7 years ago or something, the Junk have played their final gig, in January 2016. As mentioned earlier in the interview, Jake Martin has been gigging solo for some time and has a few releases under his belt. Obviously go see him live and buy him and his good lady some pints. You can start stalking over at [facebook.com/thejunkskacore](https://www.facebook.com/thejunkskacore)

shooting the shit with...

PROPAGANDHI

This interview was conducted about a year ago when Propagandhi last came to the UK and rocked the fuck out of the O2 Academy in London. I was beyond stoked when the cool people from Sonic Dice suggested I interview them, because I missed them when they played the London Astoria in '01 (for which I even bought a ticket) and then again when they played An Club in Athens a few years later. I got to speak to Beaver and Todd for a bit before the show and since Sonic Dice has since retired from the Internet, I thought it would be cool to reprint the interview here.

questions by mr pelegrinis

So what's changed for the band over the past four years since your last record and tour of the UK?

Todd: We've practised a lot and got a little better.

How did Beaver join the band?

Todd: He's just a friend of ours; he played in a good band called Giant Sons. Good tunes, good guitar styles...

Beaver: Chris and I had been talking for a long time, for a couple years before I joined; just getting together and jamming. We were going to do an AC/DC cover band and just fool around like that and then just one day he threw the idea out there, about jamming with the guys.

So how do you think that's changed or affected the band?

Beaver: We all have different styles, but when I hear 'Supporting Caste' I don't think it sounds that much a departure from earlier records. Maybe there's more depth? I don't know...

Todd: It's better; someone else's mind adding to the pod. He's a good cross section between me and Chris. His mind works a little closer to mine than Chris'

So he's like a mediator?

Todd: Yeah.

Beaver: Chris is very methodical a lot of times in his approach and Todd is, well, less methodical. I'm more like Todd maybe, but I bridge things up a bit.

Was there an overarching theme or concept for Supporting Caste? How did you come up with that title?

Todd: Not really, at the end we had like a record title or two that were just a suggestion, so we just thought we'd take a song name, and that was the one that went best with the cover we had.

Beaver: Yeah, we got pretty lucky with that. Kent Monkman guy is a pretty cool artist, lots of buzz around him now in North America, maybe even here.

What sort of music do you listen to?

Todd: Me and Beaver listen to Cynic, I listen to Necrophagist, Immolation, Krisiun and lots of African stuff like Salif Keita, Eju Keihu, [plus a couple more African artists and bands whose names I can't decipher]

Beaver: I listen to a bit of jazz. I think a bit of it is shitty, I like some jazz and some of that fusion stuff too.



What sort of art outside of music influences you? What sort of painters or performance artists do you like?

Todd: I don't know about performance art! Not that I'm insulting it or anything but I can't think of any performance artists. As far as artists, I like many of the old great comic artists, who drew weird fantasy, like Al Williamson. My girlfriend's uncle collects original art just by the bucket for me, so I get to go to his house and see like thousands and thousands of dollars worth of original art from those guys. It's pretty rad. I'm more into that kind of art that paintings and stuff, even though I 'understand' paintings - I did four years of painting classes. It's just something about how those guys use and ink and brush.

Yeah, some of that early fantasy stuff was pretty crazy.

Todd: I know that if Michaelangelo could see how well those guys draw and he picked what their mind is seeing, Michaelangelo would have his mind blown.

How important is humour to your music? Have there been instances where you have censored yourself or thought you might have gone too far?

Todd: I don't think so. We just write stuff and book a studio day after day. As soon as something catches our mind and fits into a song it goes there and we're not too concerned about it. It's just part of our personalities. If it's going to make us laugh and seem like it's going somewhere and it's not just something trying to be funny. There's always, well maybe not always, but there's some kind of meaning behind the lyrics, the little humorous stuff.

Do people ever misinterpret your lyrics?

Todd: Oh, every time, it seems like people misinterpret. I went to bandlyrics.com to see and almost every person is misinterpreting the lyrics from what they were meant to be, but it's all right. It's sort of interesting, it's not like their fault. Like me, I could be thinking something about a song and be totally wrong.

I had a look at Wikipedia, where you are described as a "an active veganarchist band supporting animal liberation and vegan lifestyles. They are known for championing various anarchist causes and have taken an active stance against human rights violations, sexism, racism, homophobia, imperialism, fascism, capitalism and religion." Do you agree with this statement?

Todd: Pretty much. I'd say they are maybe overdoing the anarchism bit. It's like how people might perceive the word 'anarchist', it seems a little geeky to me. You picture some little guy in a balaclava throwing stuff. But it is sort of true, of anything I would be the final result of all the work of humanity would be people can live in an anarchist way, so it is true.

To what extent can political activism and artistic expression work in tandem? I get a feeling that punk rock tries to bring those two together. How do you work those two together?

Todd: I guess the way we find it to work is the way we do it. We're doing it the best our minds can envision it. We have concerns about the world and the people we know and our lives and we just put it together. If you play from your heart and you are purposely trying to avoid slogans and stupidity -not that that is stupid, but it sounds stupid to played to music, you know? But if you purposely tried to avoid that and purposely tried to be creative about it then it's different. But as far as art, like Kent Monkman and his painting, he makes his art and politics very well, or last night I was listening to [Dobi Nohora] (an African musician) and she has no problem seamlessly weaving politics into her music. I think if you feel it and it means something to you and you put it into your music and you work hard to make it creative, you don't just write it because you think you want to be 'political' or something. You have to dedicate your mind to it, it's not like stuff will just come to you and you're talented, but if you're not you have to work it, you know? Like with anything, you know? You're just going to write stuff and it probably won't mean much to someone unless it comes from somewhere important to you.

How do you feel about popular punk bands like Green Day and the Offspring taking a political stance?

Todd: Well to me it's so uninspiring and lame. They don't pay attention for years and years and years and then they try to come out with something that's political, but they haven't paid attention, it's like stripped from today's headlines. There's so little depth, interest, creativity and vitality about that, it's lame. If it can move someone in some way, what can I say, but for me it's like flat nothingness, yeah? I'm interested in politics and different ideas, like Dobi Nohora makes a song and I'm like 'fuck, that's powerful, man'. But for them? It interests me so little, even though they sing about things that could possibly interest me, I don't even look! I don't even know what their songs are.

I read Ian Glasper's book 'The Day The Country Died' about the 1980s anarcho punk scene. A lot of the bands seemed to not be into that form of political activism any more. Does anarchism offer anything more to punk rock other than a stylistic approach to lyrics?

Todd: I don't know anything about what the people from Crass and Amebix do, so it's not a comment on them, but for me it's so lame. If you say 'I used to be in Crass, but now I've grown up and work at a refugee settlement or Doctors Without Borders or anything worthwhile and good, then yeah, man, that's fine. If you don't want to play music and walk around trying to be a punk any more, that's no problem. But if you go from 'anarchist' to 'nothingness', then you've failed yourself... well, actually you've not failed yourself, you've failed other people in the world that are still dying. It's not my imagination that kids in Uganda are being abducted, it's not my imagination that there are kids showing up in Winnipeg on our doorstep from Ethiopia, haven't been to school before and are now wandering the park in Winnipeg. Someone's got to help. If I go 'OK, I'm done being a punk', there's kids still wandering the park.

Beaver: That kind of thing is worse than ignorance. It's like you make the decision to stop caring, be apathetic.

Todd: I find for myself that I can't understand it, because I can't ever see that happening to me. Even if I'm 80, I'll be doing something. Even if I'm in my wheelchair, I'll be licking a stamp or something to send a letter saying 'please, help save the whales'.

What do you guys do outside of the band? I've always had this impression that you squat old churches, fight Nazis in the streets and liberate rabbits and monkeys from science labs.

Todd: I work at an after-school programme with refugee kids, lots of volunteering with refugee settlements. I don't it last year so much because we were touring in the summer and shit. But for two years before we would do an African market down town where people would bring stuff they'd make here and over there and sell it. It's still growing. I think I'll do it this summer because I'll be there for most of it. Besides that, I don't really fight Nazis [laughter], but I fight everyday, I do Jiu-Jitsu, boxing and kick-boxing. So I do that, I draw a lot and Beaver does a bunch of shit too! You teach guitar at the west end...

Beaver: [laughter] Yeah, I was! Lately we don't have that much time to do much outside of the band, we've been practising a lot and touring. I was teaching guitar at this community centre for a while and definitely want to start doing that again when I get back.

Todd: And landscaping?

Beaver: Yeah, landscaping. That's my shitty summer job.

Todd: I think for us this year is so much more different than usual. I had to quit my job because we were touring so much. Beave' now doesn't know what to say because he's did all this for so long and now this is his turning point. We're right in the crux of starting a confused year of 'touring, coming home for two weeks, touring'.

What's the deal with G7 Welcoming Committee Records? Is it still going?

Todd: Uh, somewhat, I guess it's on a break or something. Derek moved to Halifax and what's the point of doing it by yourself and having no fun, you know?

'Supporting Caste' is your first full-length record that isn't at all associated with Fat Wreck Chords. What happened over there? Were they not interested in it? What prompted you to switch labels?

Todd: I guess they had interest, I guess Fat Mike said the other people from Fat weren't supposed to talk to us or something. I don't mean that in a negative way. I guess for some reason we were just supposed to keep it between us, Jason who was trying to make sure the deal was all fair for us and Fat Mike, you know? Like I wasn't even aware of this. So it seemed like from Fat Wreck Chords no one was contacting us and...

Beaver: ...it seemed like their enthusiasm didn't match ours.

Todd: And Fat Mike has all these stuff he does and the only thing he really asked us was 'Is the new record going to be death metal?'. That was that the only thing we heard from him.

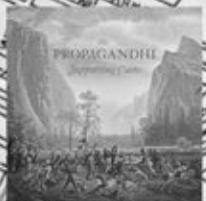
Really?

Todd: Yeah. I mean the guy's a joke, but still, compared to other labels that were really fucking stoked and driving eight hours to see us and talk to us, it seemed like 'Wow, I'd rather be with these guys!'. Then you weight these guys versus sort of doing it ourselves or with Smallman Records and you think 'well, if you're going to do it with them, we might as well do it ourselves'.

Beaver: And there's a renewed energy -it seems- in the band, so it sort of makes sense in hindsight that the band moved on and did something else.

Todd: And everything is regional and local and it's actually pretty cool because Marcus from our German label is here and I've known him for fifteen years. We've met the people from Shock Records and they're all nice. So yeah, it's cool.





How do you feel about on-line music piracy?

Beaver: I have mixed feelings, I guess. Music definitely becomes more accessible now that it's on the Internet and anyone with a computer can download it. So I don't know.

Todd: I think it's better if someone buys a record. It's also something if you invest some of your money and time into getting the real thing. It's true, if you have like twenty bands on your iPod, just kind of thumb through them all and just listen to one song and move on. But if you actually invested something in it and have a CD, you take the time to feel it and read the lyrics. If you have a stack of twenty CDs and put them on your iPod, it seem like there's a different 'weight' about it? Like lets say you are going to download a song off the Internet, you are going to listen to half of it, while you're scrolling around for the next thing you want to hear, because you're sitting there thinking 'Fuck, what should I do today? Nothing, I'll download...'. It's not the same vibe, sort of, but it's nothing I can do about it. It's a person's choice and if that's how they want to listen to music and if what they care about is a ring tone and not hearing a real song, it's the way it goes.

Do you download music yourself?

Todd: Not really. I've only downloaded something if it's impossible to find. My first idea is to go pick it up if I like the band. You can go on the net and hear a few songs and see if they're any good. But that's just me.

What misconceptions about Canada would you like to dispel?

Todd: Well... I'd like to dispel the idea that Canada is a great peaceful place doing the best it can all over the world, because there's Canadian companies all over, like in the Congo, destroying it and causing huge wars. In Northern Alberta they are creating the worst environmental catastrophe in human history and the government is not stopping it. The Aboriginal people in Canada are still mistreated

Beaver: Canada is not the Utopia Michael Moore makes it out to be in his films.

Todd: People do lock their doors at night because if they don't someone is going to beat the fuck out of them.

What's Winnipeg like?

Todd: Extremely violent. If you want a beating, you just walk around.

Beaver: It's got the highest per capita murders and violence in Canada.

Todd: It's just not guns, it's beatings and stabbings.

Beaver: At the same time it's our home. I love living there! [laughs]

Todd: Me too! But last summer I was burnt out by it. I saw so many fights it was ridiculous, fights with bats, beatings, fuck I got in one fight myself. And you're just like 'fuck this place man, it's insane', you know.

Beaver: Yeah.

And finally, some word association; I'll say something and you just say the first thing that comes to mind:

Canada

Todd: **FART.**

Beaver: (laughs)

Britain

Beaver: **Fart**

Todd: **Bad teeth**

Athens

Todd: Oh nice, gyro! No wait, that's made of meat, I don't know!

Obama

Todd: Uhh... I don't know. Obama...hmm... Whitehouse?

Cops

Todd: **Flack jacket.**

South Park

Todd: **Funny.**

Straight Edge

Beaver: **Beer.**

Zombies

Todd: **Jesus Christ. The original zombie.**

Well that's all I have, thanks again, see you guys in a bit!

Beaver: Yeah, it was pretty cool.

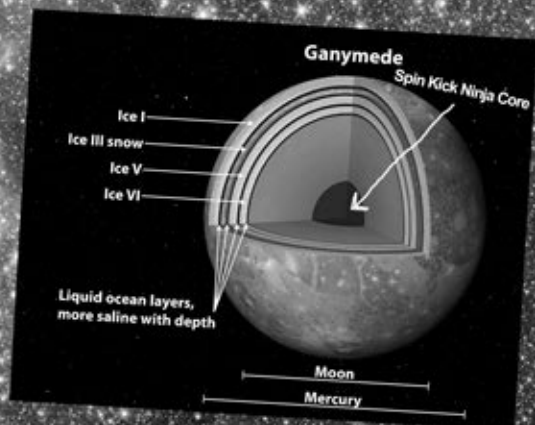


You should look up propagandhi.com or g7welcomingcommittee.com for the latest news and shit. Propagandhi have a new split 7" with Sacrifice (a metal band) out very soon and I understand they are also looking for a label to release their next record, since Smallman Records called it quits.

HUGE STUFF IN THE COSMOS

(OR HOW TO FEEL INFINITELY TINY)

The biggest moon in our solar system is Ganymede, which orbits Jupiter. It is almost as big as Mercury, but probably not as cool. Actually, it's got liquid oceans under its ice exterior, so there might be stupid alien dolphins there. You've been warned.

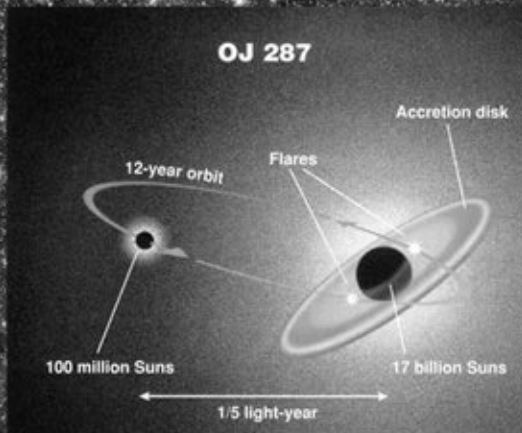


VY Canis Majoris

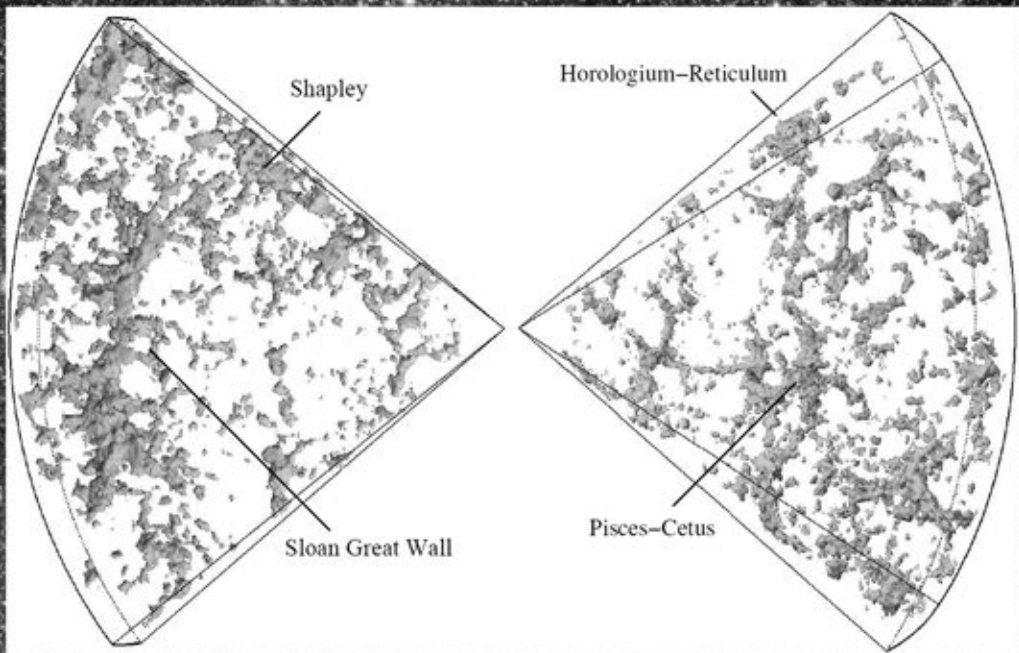
Sun

The biggest star we've detected is VY Canis Majoris, which is roughly 1800 to 2100 times bigger than our sun. It's about 4900 light years away from us, so if my shitty math is correct (which it probably isn't), means that it appears about half as big as our Sun. Right? I need to confirm this, so don't take my word for it, I've had a couple beers.

The biggest black hole (we think) we know about is located in the OJ287 galaxy, about 3.5 billion light years away. This supermassive black hole (yes, 'supermassive' is actually a technical term) is like 17 billion times bigger than our sun. Not surprisingly, this bad boy is in the constellation of Cancer.



The biggest galaxy we've found so far is IC 1101 in the Abell 2029 cluster in the constellation Serpens, approximately 1.07 billion light years away. It's 6 million light years in diameter, 60 times bigger than the Milky Way. That's also my top pick for actual Star Wars galaxy. Because obviously it is real and not something George Lucas dreamed up.



The Sloan Great Wall is a giant wall of galaxies and as of 2010, is the largest known structure in the Universe. The wall measures 1.37 billion light years in length and is located approximately one billion light-years from Earth. Even if you were the gnarliest Silver Surfer, it would take you one heck of a lot of time to grind that shit all the way, from top to bottom.





GABRIEL'S LIVE REPORT

Cancer Bats/Trash Talk 30-10-10

So When I heard that Cancer Bats and Trash Talk were doing a tour together, apart from shitting my only clean pair of y-fronts with excitement, I thought it would be a great opportunity to write a gig review/ something that wasn't just me bitching about a load of random shit and put something worth reading in the zine at long last.

I've been into cancer bats for quite some time and after reading an article on Trash Talk labelling them the most dangerous band on the planet after being banned from numerous countries and states for there wild live shows, I knew this was an opportunity not to be missed.

For those of you who know anything about either of these bands you will know that they are both Trash/Hardcore bands from the U.S/Canada.(For those of you who don't I think its about time you crawled out of that cave you call home and GET YOUR MOSH ON...

Anyway, we(me, Michael and Holly) turn up at the rescue rooms in Nottingham all completely fucked from drinking a couple of crates of strongbow. The place is already packed as expected as its a sold out show and some random arse band are playing who I have absolutely no idea who they are or what they sounded like(so they were probably shit).

The venue its self is pretty cool and pretty small which is what you want at a hardcore gig. After a load of shit talking to a bunch of randoms about skatin an shit some band called Vera Cruz start playing who look like the biggest bunch of cocks I've ever seen and who play really generic screamy rock music that sounds like every other shit band who are played on Kerrang T.V. 24/7. The crowd are clearly not into it judging by the faces of most of them and we all really just want Trash Talk to begin.

Finally after Vera Cruz have left the stage, Trash Talk begin playing a build up intro and everyone who's there knows their about to witness something fucking cool. Suddenly the singer rushes on to the stage and as the song drops into some insane hardcore tune a huge pit starts with fists flying in all directions and I know I'm gonna be swore by the end of this set. During the second song the singer does a flip into the centre of the circle pit and everyone(including me) starts screaming EXPLODE, EXPLODE!! into his mic.

The singer is clearly insane and his band sound like roadworks with vocals over the top (if that's not crucial I don't know what is). He spends the rest of his time In the crowd, except when he climbs up the balcony and starts using it as a stage(to the delight of all the petrified fourteen year old girls and their mothers). As a whole Trash Talk are one of the best/insane hardcore bands I've ever witnessed and would encourage everyone to go and see them before their singer gets sectioned.

By the end of their set I'm paralytic and get kicked out for smoking in the venue (like an absolute dick) and miss Cancer Bats altogether which sucked anus, but I was told they were amazing which really lifted my spirits and made me feel much better(i still don't think this counts as worth reading)

no bullshit and no fucking about

one-sentence reviews

by bobatron 5000

straight to the fucking point!

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER FILMOGRAPHY

(1970 - 2010)

Hercules in New York - This is fucking rubbish.
The Long Goodbye - Arnie is like not even there.
Happy Anniversary and Goodbye - More bullshit.
Stay Hungry - Did you know Arnie won a Golden Globe for this?
Pumping Iron - Almost pornographic.
The Villain/Cactus Jack - Arnie as a cowboy.
Scavenger Hunt - Yeah, he's in there, with Meat Loaf.

Conan the Barbarian - Hooray!
Conan the Destroyer - Hooray!
The Terminator - Fuck yeah!

Red Sonja - Eh, no, I don't think we another Conan, seriously.
Commando - Arnie takes on an entire army.

Raw Deal - Even though it shares names with a pretty sweet hardcore band, this one kinda blows.

Predator - This is where he started to master his one-liners.

The Running Man - I borrowed this from Dom and I can't say it was that great.

Red Heat - Jim FUCKING Belushi is in it, you bet it kicks ass.

Twins - Danny FUCKING DeVito is in it, you bet it kicks ass.

Total Recall - No.

Total Recall - FUCKYES.

Kingergarten Cop - It's not a tumor.

Terminator 2: Judgement Day - Almost pornographic.

Feed - No, I haven't seen this.

Dave - Nor this one.

Last Action Hero - Surprisingly good.

True Lies - Probably the last pretty good action movie of his.

Junior - Yeah, this is where he's starting to not give a shit, even his one-liners aren't that great.

Eraser - This is an adaptation of an imaginary prequel to *Quake*, where Arnie demonstrates how cool Railguns totally fucking are.

Jingle All the Way - SINBAD is in this!

T2 3-D: Battle Across Time - It's a bit funny looking.

Batman and Robin - Arnie must be a Marvel fan.

End of Days - Arnie takes on Satan.

The 6th Day - This is like a failed *Total Recall*.

Dr. Dolittle 2 - Arnie is a White Wolf, an obvious homage to his Nazi past.

Collateral Damage - This is almost sad to watch and as a result is probably why he decided to give politics a go.

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines - Yeah, it's not the greatest movie ever, but it's not that bad, so fuck you.

The Rundown - 'Uncredited Cameo'.

Around the World in 80 Days - Whatever.

The Kid & I - I am not going to watch this.

Cars - Yeah, he was in this shit too.

Terminator Salvation - Yes, it fucking counts and yes, it fucking rules.

The Expendables - This would have been about a billion times better if it actually starred Arnie, instead they got Sly Stallone and a bunch of others to drag their ass through this mediocrefest.

no bullshit and no fucking about

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Coke Bust - Degradation 7": Epic, short, loud and fast is all you need to know.

Teeth - A Is For Asshole 7": I don't have time for shit that sounds like OMD or whatever.

Punch - Push Pull: This one wins the MOSHTROCITY OF THE YEAR award.

The Ladies - Six More Reasons To Hate... 7": I hate the ladies because they won't have promiscuous sex with me, probably because I am a fat, hairy dude who doesn't make a ton of money, nor do I play in a bullshit flavor-of-the-month band.

Bad Religion - The Dissent of Man: Just like 'Maiden, you can't really fault these ancient dudes for sticking to their well-tested sound, even if it is a bit boring.

Down To Nothing - All My Sons 7": You got to put your war face on to really appreciate this six-song masterpiece.

Less Than Jake - TV EP: If you liked the idea of the 'Greased' EP, you will love this.

Γέλως - Μεταξύ Ουρανού και Γης: Άλλο ένα μεγάλο σουξέ της Ηχοκρατορίας.

The Rival Mob - Hardcore For Hardcore: THIS IS WHAT I'M FUCKING TALKING ABOUT WHEN I MEAN QUALITY HARDCORE.

Mind Eraser - Conscious/Unconscious EP: Dark, dirgy, delightful grind-influenced epic doom hardcore from a guy who used to be in Mental.

Atreyu - Covers of the Damned: I have more use for herpes than this shit.

Madball - Empire: This season's soundtrack for beefy men who wear wife beaters and Armani cologne at hardcore shows.

Underoath - Ø (Disambiguation): Oh look at us, we are so fucking cool with our Bible School crap, stupid "clever" titles and shit taste in clothing, please buy our fucking record so we can pray harder for a sound that is not as ridiculous as priests raping kids and the church covering it up.

Wings, Beer, and Sports - Let's Trash Cali EP: Comedy straight edge (possibly) mosh from dudes who want to be Casey Jones only not that good or funny.

Low Threat Profile - Self-titled 7": This has dudes from INFEST and a load of those fast, thrashy, crusty bands, so if you smell more than the average gig-goer and own anything from 625, you will probably have this already.

Negative Approach - Friends of No One: Yeah, this is actually alright.

Casey Jones - I Hope We're Not The Last: The final record from this beatdown edge pride mosh-it-up comedy band is pretty cool, all things considered.

The Alligators - Both 7": I prefer this over the last couple Agnostic Front records...

No Turning Back - Take Control: European hardcore the way it should be, by a group of seasoned pros who can probably win in a fight with Madball.

Avril Lavigne - Goodbye Lullaby: So yeah, she's not married to the Sum41 anymore and she kinda sucks, in that solo career Gwen Steffani kinda way.

Socially Retarded / Sea of Shit - split 7": Two bands verging on grind, Socially Retarded sound a bit like a modern Concrete Sox, while Sea of Shit are way more sludgier.

Organised Sports - Self Titled 7": I don't know why, but I thought this might sound like Void (DC), but they don't, so I'm somewhat disappointed.

Have Heart - 10.17.09: I wish I was there, don't you?

Brokencyde - Will Never Die: No, I don't expect they will die, it seems more likely they will suffer a life of agony and emptiness as they retreat into subcultural obscurity.

NOFX & The Spits - split 7": NOFX rule and the Spits are fucking horrible.

GWAR - Bloody Pit of Horror: I don't care what everybody tells me, they are a fucking boring ass rock band with a really tiring gimmick that only metal nerds find fascinating.

Fearless Records - Punk Goes Pop, vol.3: YES, they've actually PAID REALLY MONEY to get THREE of these pieces of shit made, just to prove how much you can stretch a vaguely amusing joke of a compilation record.

Deal With It - Eyjafjallajökull: This is (almost) to the Cro-Mags what Municipal Waste are to 1980s thrash, but what you need to do is question yourself if this is actually needed.

Antidote - Thou Shalt Not Kill 7" [Reissue]: I'm glad Bridge 9 is reissuing a load of old records, because then there will be less asshole collectors on the Internet pretending that they have some sort of esoteric knowledge of hardcore because they happened to spend \$3 on a 7" back when I was still a wet dream in my dad's sack.

OFF! - 1st EP 7": This gets hyped a lot, but would you expect anything less from an early Black Flag/Circle Jerks-sounding band fronted by Keith Morris?

Frank Turner - Rock & Roll: Absolutely horrible bullshit 'heartfelt' crap designed for tools.

Rise Against - Another Station, Another Mile: Nobody cares anymore, (please) fuck off.

Propagandhi & Sacrifice - Split 7": This would have been so much more fucking awesome if they didn't just do a cover each.

Revelation Records - Past Present: Breaking Out The Classics: Since they will never release a compilation as great as 'NYHC', the next best thing is to get bands to cover stuff from back then and hope everyone forgets of the mid/late 90s crap you released.

United Nations - Never Mind The Bombing, Here's Your Six Figures EP: This needed another epic outro with a sax, otherwise it's alright for a band full of dickheads who normally make a living in a bunch of scenetastic fucking emo bands or whatever.

Redman - Reggie: Only one song features Method Man, but this is still pretty sweet.

The Get Up Kids - There Are Rules: The only rule seems to be "make it sure it sucks, but like all of the fucking time, you got that?"

Braids - Native Speaker: Braid (singular) sucked a fair bit, so it really shouldn't come as a surprise that Braids (plural) also sucks, only a whole lot more.

Avenged Sevenfold - Welcome To The Family: I presume 'the family' is in Hell, where their smackhead drummer currently resides, yes?

Silverstein - Transisions: So they've left one label that used to be pretty damn awesome 20 years ago, for one that was pretty damn awesome 15 years ago.

Mygrain - Mygrain: I thought everybody agreed that spelling your fucking band name incorrectly was LAME about five years ago, did they not get the fucking memo?

Lemuria - Pebbles: This is utter rubbish and Bridge-9 would be better off spending all money they spent on this sending REAL CDs out to 'zines for reviews instead of mp3s.

FLOORPUNCH - NEW JERSEY 2x12": Words cannot express just how seriously crucial this record is, so here is a picture of Paris Hilton smoking some prime kush bein' all gangsta and shit.

The RULES for reviews:

NO FUCKING MP3s IF YOU ARE A RECORD LABEL. SEND US A FUCKING RECORD IF YOU WANT A FUCKING REVIEW, OTHERWISE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE WE WILL PERPETUATE MUSIC PIRACY, YOU CHEAPSKATE.



**GOT SOMETHING CRUCIAL TO
SAY? RANTS, OPINION, GUIDES,
TIPS, PICTURES, DRAWINGS,
RECIPES, REVIEWS? YOU SURE?**



A CRUCIAL 'ZINE recruitment service. Terms and conditions apply: You must maintain acceptable levels of cruciality to be eligible for contributions. For further information, contact us via the Internet, or in person at shows (we are the cool dudes, you can't miss us), with a sample of your ideas, work and a round of shots or a spliff. We'll get back to you, unless we forget, in which case bug us, but don't bug us too hard or we will tell you to fuck right off. Upon joining, you agree that with the idea that Metallica and 99% of metal is shit. Except DragonForce and Maiden, who rule by default. Thinking otherwise can result in immediate termination of your contribution and a serious talking down by B9K. You will be expected to maintain high levels of cruciality throughout your contribution period and evangelize CRUCIAL 'ZINE to all your friends, family, co-workers and peers. Rules and regulations are subject to change without warning. Tough shit, homey. For further information, contact a member of TEAM CRUCIAL today.

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NO GODS / NO MAGAZINES